

washing said assay plate;
drying said washed assay plate;
determining, while the washed assay plate is dry, the amount of mobile nucleic acid bound to said washed assay plate.

2 ~~16~~. A method according to claim ~~15~~¹ additionally comprising treating with a dye that binds to one of said immobilized nucleic acid or said mobile nucleic acid.

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3 ~~17~~. The method of claim ~~16~~² wherein the step of treating with dye comprises binding the dye to the mobile nucleic acid prior to bringing the solution into contact with the dried aliquot.

4 ~~18~~. The method of claim ~~16~~³ wherein the step of treating with dye comprises depositing the dye on the dried aliquot after bringing the solution into contact with the dried aliquot.

5 ~~19~~. The method of claim ~~18~~⁴ wherein the assay plate has multiple dried aliquots thereon of different species or concentration.--

Remarks

The Examiner is thanked for the Action of Oct. 3, 2000 and for pointing out an error in Claim 15. Claim 15 was rejected in view of the use of "set state". The claim has been amended above to recite "wet state".

The Examiner raised an obviousness type double patenting rejection as to claims 15-19, based on US 5,922,534. A Terminal Disclaimer in relation to that patent is enclosed.